

steadiness of the troops during the action of the 8th, and the brilliant impetuosity with which the enemy's position and artillery were carried on the 9th, have displayed the best qualities of the American soldier. To every officer and soldier of the command, the General publicly returns his thanks for the noble manner in which they have sustained the honor of the service and of the country. While the main body of the army has been thus actively employed, the garrison left opposite Matamoros has rendered no less distinguished service by sustaining a severe cannonade and bombardment for many successive days. The army and the country, whilst justly rejoicing in this triumph of our arms, will deplore the loss of many brave officers and men who fell gallantly in the hour of combat.

2. It being necessary for the commanding General to visit Point Isabel on public business, Colonel Twigg will assume command of the corps of the army near Matamoros, including the garrison of the field work. He will occupy the former lines of the army, making such dispositions for defence and for the comfort of his command as he may deem advisable. He will hold himself strictly on the defensive until the return of the commanding General.

By order of Brig. Gen. TAYLOR:
W. W. J. BLISS, Acting Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Point Isabel, Texas, March 12, 1846.

SIR: I am making a hasty visit to this place, for the purpose of having an interview with Commodore Conner, whose squadron is now at anchor off the harbor, and arranging with him a combined movement up the river. I will myself of the brief time at my command to report that the main body of the army is now occupying its former position opposite Matamoros. The Mexican forces are almost disorganized, and I shall lose no time in investing Matamoros, and opening the navigation of the river.

I regret to report that Major Ringgold died the morning of the 11th instant of the severe wounds received in the action of Palo Alto. With the exception of Capt. Page, whose wound is dangerous, the other wounded officers are doing well. In my report of the second engagement, I accidentally omitted the name of Lieut. Dobbin, 3d infantry, among the officers slightly wounded, and desire that the omission may be supplied in the despatch this day. I am under the painful necessity of reporting that Lieut. Blake, topographical engineer, after rendering distinguished service in my staff during the affair of the 8th instant, accidentally shot himself with a pistol on the following day, and expired before night.

It has been quite impossible as yet to furnish detailed reports of our engagements with the enemy, or even accurate returns of the killed and wounded. Our loss is not far from 3 officers and 40 men killed, and 13 officers and 100 men wounded; while that of the enemy has in all probability exceeded 300 killed; more than 200 have been buried by us on the two fields of battle.

I have exchanged a sufficient number of prisoners to recover the command of Capt. Thornton. The wounded prisoners have been sent to Matamoros—the wounded officers to their parole. General La Vega and a few other officers have been sent to New Orleans, having declined a parole, and will be reported to Maj. Gen. Gaines. I am not conversant with the uses of war in such cases, and beg that such provision may be made for these prisoners as may be authorized by law. Our own prisoners have been treated with great kindness by the Mexican officers.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
Z. TAYLOR,
Brig. Gen. U. S. A., commanding.
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Point Isabel, Texas, May 12, 1846.
(Orders No. 63.)

As a mark of respect to the Chief Magistrate of the Republic, the work constructed at this place, to cover the main depot of the army, will be known as "Fort Polk."

The commanding General takes this occasion to express his satisfaction with the dispositions made for the defence and protection of this point, so vitally important to the efficiency and security of the army. To Major Munroe, the commanding officer, Captain Sanders, of the Engineers, Major Thomas and MacRae, and Captain Sibley and Hill, of the Quartermaster's Department, Captain Ramsey of the Ordnance, and Lieutenant Montgomery, of the Subsistence Departments, credit is especially due for their zeal and activity. The General returns his thanks to the numerous citizens who volunteered their services in the defence of the depot. Their assistance added materially to its strength and to his confidence in its ability to resist an attack. The reinforcement from the brig "Lawrence," under Lieutenant Renshaw, and the large force of seamen and marines so promptly furnished by the squadron on its arrival, require a special acknowledgment to Commodore Conner and Commander Mercer, of the navy. The army is deeply grateful for this support and co-operation from a kindred branch of the public service.

By order of Brigadier General Taylor:
W. W. J. BLISS, Acting Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Point Isabel, Texas, May 12, 1846.
[Special Orders, No. 62.]

1. General La Vega and the other Mexican officers, prisoners of war, will be conducted to New Orleans under charge of Lieutenant J. J. Reynolds, 4th artillery, who will report on his arrival to Major General Gaines for further instructions. The Quartermaster's Department will furnish a steamer for the transportation of the party.

2. As many of the sick and wounded now at this place as may be indicated by Surgeon Wood, will be sent in suitable transports to St. Joseph's Island.

Assistant Surgeon Byrne will accompany the detachment, and will return with the convalescents that may be in condition to leave the general hospital. The Quartermaster's Department will furnish the proper transportation.

By order of Brigadier General Taylor,
W. W. J. BLISS, Acting Adjutant General.

U. S. SHIP CUMBERLAND,
Off Vera Cruz, May 3, 1846.

The decided tone of the Manifesto of the President of the Mexican Republic, in connexion with other indications, seems to leave no doubt that orders have been given to General Arista to attack the American army on the Del Norte, should a favorable occasion offer. Under the belief that an attack is contemplated, I have considered it advisable, and have determined to sail to-morrow morning for the Brazos Santiago with the Cumberland, Raritan, Potomac, John Adams, and Somers. The Falmouth will be left here to protect our interests and to watch the course of events. The appearance of the squadron at that place, with a knowledge of the considerable reinforcement it can afford to our army, will, I think, cause the Mexican Generals to pause, if not altogether to abandon their design of attacking General Taylor. All accounts concur in stating the Mexican army to amount to nearly eight thousand men. I feel assured the Government has not the means of maintaining this force for any length of time in the field; indeed, there is not, even now, a dollar in the treasury. Hence delay will either cause the army to disband, or another revolution to take place; either of which events, it is believed, cannot be otherwise than favorable to the wishes of our Government in bringing about an amicable settlement of our difficulties with Mexico. The latter would undoubtedly contribute to that end, as it would place in power men wholly opposed to the policy at present pursued.

Considerable activity has prevailed at this place since my arrival, in improving and strengthening the defences of the castle and the town of Vera Cruz. As far as I am able to ascertain, there are now nearly, if not quite, two hundred guns mounted in the castle of San Juan d'Ulloa, and as many as fifty in the two forts and walls of the city commanding the anchorage. These guns are all new, and of heavy caliber, most of them being thirty-two and forty-two pounders, with a number of eight and ten-inch Paixhans guns. There are said to be nearly two thousand men in the fortress, and about the same number in the town.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
D. CONNER,
Commanding Home Squadron.

Hon. GEORGE BANCROFT,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

U. S. SHIP CUMBERLAND,
Off the bar of Brazos Santiago, May 8, 1846.

SIR: As stated in my communication of the 3d, the squadron left the roads of Sacrificios on the morning of the 4th,

and has just anchored off the bar of Santiago, where I have been just apprized that hostilities have actually taken place some days since.

As the opportunity by which I send this communication cannot be detained, I have only time to add, that, after communicating with Gen. Taylor, and ascertaining the situation of affairs at Matamoros, it shall remain here no longer than the presence of the squadron may be required; after which it will be necessary for this ship, the Potomac, and John Adams to repair to Pensacola to replenish their provisions and water. In the mean time orders will be given to carry into execution your instructions in relation to the blockade of the Mexican coast, and to meet and repel, in the most decisive manner, the hostilities of the Mexican nation. Some more small vessels are required, also one or two small steamboats of a draft of water not exceeding eight feet. These vessels will be necessary to enforce a strict blockade of the coast.

I am, very respectfully, &c.
D. CONNER,
Commanding Home Squadron.

Hon. GEORGE BANCROFT,
Secretary of the Navy.

UNITED STATES SHIP CUMBERLAND,
Off Brazos Santiago, May 9, 1846.

SIR: The arrival of the squadron at this anchorage, of which the Department was informed in my communication of yesterday, was most opportune. To obtain a supply of provisions from the depot at Point Isabel, General Taylor, after leaving Major Brown with five hundred men in charge of the works at Matamoros, marched for the former place with the remainder of his force, consisting of two thousand men. On his return, when within twelve or fifteen miles of Matamoros, he encountered the enemy in considerable force, estimated at from six thousand to seven thousand men, with a large portion of cavalry. An engagement took place about 10 o'clock yesterday morning, which lasted until night. A pilot in the employment of the United States at this bar, who visited the army to-day, informs me that our loss amounted to sixty killed, and that General Taylor had offered the enemy battle again to-day, but that it was declined. From the rapid and incessant firing, particularly of artillery, throughout the day, I should infer the loss of the enemy must have been very considerable. No further particulars have reached me. Shortly after the action commenced, I received a communication from Major Munroe, commanding Point Isabel, requesting a reinforcement from the squadron, for the defence of that point, where, it appears, all the supplies for the army are deposited. In the course of yesterday afternoon and this morning, five hundred seamen and marines, under the command of Captain Gregory, of the Raritan, were landed from the squadron—a force, it is believed, sufficient to defend against any attempt that the enemy can make. A reinforcement for the army is hourly expected from Galveston and New Orleans.

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Hon. GEORGE BANCROFT,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

UNITED STATES SHIP CUMBERLAND,
Off Brazos Santiago, May 13, 1846.

SIR: In my communication of the 9th instant, of which a duplicate is enclosed, the Department was informed that a battle had been fought on the day previous between the American and Mexican forces, near Matamoros. On the 9th Gen. Taylor continued to advance towards his forces opposite that place, the Mexican army, under Gen. Arista, falling back before him, until within two and a half miles from the American works, when he made a stand and a general action ensued, which ended in the complete rout of the enemy. All his artillery, several standards, nearly all his baggage, ammunition, and stores, with a large number of prisoners, among whom were General La Vega, and other officers of rank, were captured. The enemy maintained his position bravely, and did not abandon it without very severe loss. Our loss is stated to be about sixty killed and wounded. So signal has been the defeat that it is not believed the enemy will be able to assemble in any force for a considerable time. This event, with the arrival of nearly one thousand volunteers from New Orleans, has placed the army in perfect security. It is my intention to dispatch such vessels of the squadron as are not in immediate want of water, to blockade the Mexican ports, leaving the Lawrence to cruise in this neighborhood for the protection of the vessels engaged in furnishing the army with supplies.

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SIR: As stated in my communication of the 3d, the squadron left the roads of Sacrificios on the morning of the 4th,

THE MEXICAN WAR—PURPOSES OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

The following more than semi-official disclosure of the views and purposes of the Administration in its war with Mexico is so frank and full, that the Public, to be enabled to make up its opinion of their merits, requires only to know, in addition, from the same authority, what it is, on the part of the Mexican Republic, that the Executive would consider as manifesting "a sense of justice."

FROM "THE UNION" OF YESTERDAY MORNING.

The New York Albion invokes all the friends of peace to exert their best efforts for its preservation. It thinks the danger imminent. We sympathize in our wishes with the Albion. We, too, deprecate any war between Great Britain and the United States, and we invoke as sincerely as it does the blessings of peace between the two nations. But why does it indulge any fears at this moment? Why suppose that the call for fifty thousand volunteers points to a war with England? We mean to conduct the war against Mexico with all the vigor in our power. We may want twenty-five thousand volunteers, or even more, to strike such a blow as may compel her to make peace. We shall invade her territory; we shall seize her strongholds; we shall take even her capital, if there be no other means of bringing her to a sense of justice. We may want fifty thousand volunteers, not against England, but for the Mexican war. Why need the Albion, then, attribute our military energy to any covert design of waging a war against England?

NATIONAL FAIR.

The public interest in this grand Exhibition continues with so little abatement, that we doubt whether it will be entirely satisfied, far less satiated, at the proposed termination of it, though now extended to Wednesday next; we are quite convinced that two of our columns closely printed daily for the next fortnight could not contain all that we could say, and which we feel we ought to say, respecting it. But we do not doubt that the Managers have abundant reasons for the course which they have adopted; to whom, by the way, great credit is due for the exertions which they have used, and the arrangements which they have made, for the management of the fair.

REWARD OF MERIT.—We understand that the President on Tuesday nominated the gallant Brigadier General TAYLOR for the brevet rank of Major General, and that the nomination was immediately confirmed by the Senate.

The Philadelphia papers announce the death, on Sunday last, of the Hon. WILLIAM DRAYTON, formerly a distinguished Representative in Congress from the State of South Carolina, but for the last twelve or fourteen years a resident of the city of Philadelphia.

As a sterling patriot—a man of unswerving integrity and uprightness—a gentleman of the highest breeding and the nicest sense of honor, he was, whilst living, universally respected and esteemed, and, now departed from among us, has left no superior behind him.

EX-PRÉSIDENT TYLER arrived in this city on Tuesday evening, in compliance with a summons from one of the Committees appointed by the House of Representatives to examine into the expenditures from the secret service fund during his administration.

A letter from an Officer of the Army to his friend in this city, dated at Point Isabel on the 14th instant, after describing the late bravely fought actions, says: "THE MILITARY ACADEMY is in the ascendant. The imbecility of the old, and the luxurious and matrimonial life of the young, have gloriously vindicated their character from the aspersions which have been cast upon them in high places."

The Washington Correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, whose sources of information are supposed to be entitled to some confidence, writes, under date of May 25th, as follows:

"An invasion from different points at the same time, the forces all aiming at the city of Mexico, has been talked of. A distinguished officer of the army has, it is said, given it as his opinion that a force of a hundred thousand men will be necessary for the object. From Tampico to the city of Mexico the distance is short of two hundred miles by a direct route, and the route is perfectly practicable. In the mean time the Government have taken a step which is quite as decided and important as a march to the Mexican capital. The American squadron, under Commodore Stockton, have ordered to take possession of St. Francisco and Monterey, and to hold those places against all opposition. I know this to be a fact."

THE MEXICAN WAR.

The following speculations, from one of the most enlightened of the Democratic journals which support the measures of the Administration, cannot fail to interest our readers at the present moment:

"If, as some seem to expect, the demonstration of strength which the United States have made on the Rio Grande should discourage the Mexican Government in the further prosecution of the war, and lead them to accept an armistice from our Government, the war will have been brought to a speedy and fortunate termination. We earnestly hope that this will be the result, both for the interest of the two nations concerned and for the interest of humanity. On the other hand, should the animosity of the Mexican population towards this country incline their Government to an immediate accommodation, the close of the war may be adjourned to a very distant day. We incline to believe that the war will either be a very short one."

"The temper of the native Mexicans, a race consisting mostly of aborigines or of mixed breeds with a large infusion of original blood, is that of dogged endurance. The nation has no commerce for us to harass or plunder; the productions of the country suffice for their imperfect state of civilization; they have no magazines of provision for an invader to seize, and if they were deliberately to adopt the policy of attempting to weary us out with that sort of flying and desultory hostilities which in their language are called by the term guerrillas, we may have a war of long duration before us."

It is understood that the nomination of HENRY HORN, Esq., to be Collector of the port of Philadelphia, which has been for some months suspended in the Senate, was finally decided by rejecting it on Monday last.

D. S. KAUFMAN, Esq., Representative to Congress from Eastern Texas, left New Orleans for this city on the 19th. His majority is 1,000. It is yet uncertain who is elected from Western Texas.

THREE LIVES LOST BY SPIRIT RAIL.—At St. Louis, on the night of the 16th instant, a most deplorable accident happened in the house of Mr. Augustus Farnham. Amanda A. Smith, a nurse, in attempting to fill a lamp from a can which contained two quarts of spirit gas, unfortunately let a candle come in contact with the destructive fluid, which burst the vessel and filled the room with flame. Two of Mr. Farnham's children, an interesting boy of five years of age, and a promising girl of three years old, and the nurse, a girl of about fourteen years of age, were the only persons in the room at the time. All three were so badly burnt that they died during the night.

THE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Under the act of Congress authorizing the President of the United States to accept the services of Volunteers, we learn from an official publication that letters have been addressed by the Secretary of War to the Governors of the several States and Territories to cause the following number of Volunteers to be enrolled and held in readiness for muster into service, viz:

Maine.....	777
New Hampshire.....	390
Massachusetts.....	777
Rhode Island.....	390
Connecticut.....	390
Vermont.....	390
New York.....	5,439
New Jersey.....	777
Delaware.....	390
Pennsylvania.....	4,662
Maryland.....	1,554
Virginia.....	2,331
North Carolina.....	777
South Carolina.....	777
Louisiana.....	1,554
Michigan.....	777
Florida.....	390
Iowa.....	777
Wisconsin.....	777
Alabama.....	390
	24,486

Volunteers called for from different States for immediate service.

Arkansas.....	Horse.	Foot.
Mississippi.....	777	388
Alabama.....	777	388
Georgia.....	777	388
Tennessee.....	777	388
Kentucky.....	777	388
Missouri.....	777	388
Illinois.....	2,331	388
Indiana.....	2,331	388
Ohio.....	2,331	388
Texas.....	777	388
	3945	13,208
		3,945
		17,153

That is to say (exclusive of Volunteers called for by General Taylor) for immediate service, seven thousand one hundred and fifty-three volunteers; to be enrolled and subject to be called into service, twenty-four thousand four hundred and eighty-six volunteers.

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS PICAYUNE OF MAY 17.

THE ROAD TO MEXICO.—A friend has furnished us from his route book with the distance from San Antonio, Texas, to the city of Mexico, including all the intermediate halting places. Just at this moment it possesses very considerable interest, for we continually have questions put to us as to the distances from point to point in Texas and Mexico. They are given from the journal of an actual traveller, and the recruits who have not yet left here may improve the opportunity of the passage to Brazos Santiago to study the road which they may have to traverse.

Distance from San Antonio to the following places.

Miles.	Miles.
Rio Grande, at the Presidio.....	150
San Juan.....	22
San Fernando.....	15
San Juan de Mata.....	15
Rosita.....	23
River Salinas.....	35
Hacienda de Alamos.....	20
Do Hermosillo.....	15
Do Juarez.....	17
Town of Monclova.....	17
Castano.....	355
Rancho de Bajan.....	30
Tank of San Felipe.....	33
Hacienda Anelo.....	20
Do Mesa.....	22
Village Capellanillo.....	25
Saltillo.....	10
Hacienda Agua Nueva.....	505
Do San Salvador.....	36
Do Salado.....	30